

From: [redacted] E: [redacted] Other: [redacted]  
P: [redacted] R: [redacted]

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## CIA Applicants

The much-abused Central Intelligence Agency is on the rack again—criticized even by Sen. Hruska, who has “great faith in them and in their ability”—for making a last-minute request for a secret hearing in support of desire for complete exemption from provisions of S.1035, described as a bill to protect federal employees in enjoyment of their constitutional rights and against unwarranted invasions of their privacy.

✓ Sep. Ervin was nettled for several reasons, one being that for the past year or two he himself has given CIA representatives the equivalent of a secret hearing. He says that S.1035 takes care of every valid objection made.

The CIA's need for a personnel beyond reproach is unquestionable; and its anxiety in this respect is more understandable every time a deviation from 100 per cent attainment of that ideal is brought out, or insinuated. Supposedly it wants a better crack at the 100 per cent by leeway to put any kinds of questions to applicants that will reveal the amount of trust that can be placed in them. The record seems full of instances in which applicants have been shocked out of their cool by the types of questions asked, with or without the controversial “polygraph.”

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The suppositions raised about what the CIA is doing or wants to do, in assembling men as dedicated to country as can be found; unlikely to be swayed by things other than disloyalty per se; and counting personal privacy well lost in the interests of country, make it seem in themselves devoid of savvy. We do

not know what it is trying to do; and in just what pattern or variety of patterns the questioning tools it wants to retain have been used.

We believe that the CIA, or any national security agency, should have a last opportunity to make its objectives clear in private to a responsible group; to relieve itself, if possible, of the onus cast on it—that it has come to or been driven to rely on methods of question that, purely in themselves, represent a dead-end in effectiveness. Maybe it can provide top-secret evidence that the methods have worked, astounding as it may seem.

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